

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SNM-05
/081 W

-----121929 220643Z /10

R 220302Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 501
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 5580

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SNAR, NP
SUBJECT: CALL ON NEA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE DUBS
ON PRIME MINISTER

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE DUBS AND I
CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER BISTA AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER
19. AMERICA DESK OFFICER MRS. BINDYA SHAH ALSO
PRESENT. MEETING WAS BILLED ESSENTIALLY AS COURTESY
CALL BUT DEVELOPED INTO PRODUCTIVE EXCHANGE ON SEVERAL
TOPICS AS FOLLOWS.

2. AFTER OPING AMENITIES, PM SAID GON WAS PLEASED
WE HAD SEEN FIT TO HOLD CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING IN
KATHMANDU. DUBS AGREED KATHMANDU WAS GOOD CHOICE
GIVEN EXCELLENT STATE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS,
ABSENCE OF PROBLEMS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND
HOSPITABLE AND ATTRACTIVE SETTING WHICH NEPAL OFFERED
TO VISITORS. ON SUBJECT OF VISITORS PM TOOK NOTE OF
JANUARY VISIT OF AID ADMINISTRATOR GILLIGAN TO NEPAL
AND SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING HIM AND TO
ENSURING THAT HE WOULD HAVE GOOD EXPOSURE TO
NEPALESE RURAL AND HILL AREAS WHERE NEPALESE DEVELOP-
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MENTAL PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES WERE CURRENTLY
FOCUSED.

3. REVERTING TO COM MEETING DUBS SAID PARTICIPANTS
AGREED US RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES OF REGION HAVE
HAD THEIR UPS AND DOWNS, BUT OVERALL TREND WAS SEEN
BR FAVORABLE. PM AGREED WITH THIS ASSESSMENT SAYING

HE FELT THAT TENSIONS IN SOUTH ASIA HAD LESSENERD AND PROSPECTS FOR PEACE AND STABILITY HAD IMPROVED. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP IN INDIA AND TO EFFORTS OF JANATA GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. NEPAL STILL HAS A NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS TO RESOLVE WITH INDIA BUT NEW ATMOSPHERE OF COOPERATION WAS APPARENT DURING MORARJI DESAI'S RECENT VISIT TO KATHMANDU.

4. DUBS WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT IT WAS AGAINST BACKGROUND OF SUCH TRENDS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO INDIA SHOULD BE VIEWED. OUR RELATIONS WITH INDIA WERE BETTER AND THIS WAS A DEVELOPMENT WHICH SHOULD BE WELCOMED BY ALL STATES OF THE AREA BECAUSE IT CONTRIBUTED TO REGIONAL TRANQUILITY AND PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT. IT SHOULD ALSO BE STRESSED THAT IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND INDIA WERE NOT AT EXPENSE OF LONG

STANDING US-NEPALESE FRIENDSHIP. FURTHER PRESIDENT'S VISIT SHOULD BE SEEN AS EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES NOT ONLY TO INDIA BUT ALL NATIONS OF AREA ALL OF WHICH ARE INVOLVED IN DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS WHICH IS HIGH ON PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY LIST.

5. PM EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT DUBS' POINT THAT
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IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH INDIA WOULD NOT RESULT IN LESS ATTENTION TO NEPAL. PM SAID HE WAS GLAD TO HAVE THIS POINT RE-EMPHASIZED.

6. DUBS THEN TURNED TO QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND NARCOTICS BOTH OF WHICH WERE ALSO IMPORTANT US FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES. AS DUBS WAS SUMMARIZING FOR PM RECENT LEGISLATION ENACTED BY CONGRESS WHICH CLEARLY REFLECTS US CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, PM INTERRUPTED TO STATE THAT HE WAS GLAD TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO REASSURE DUBS THAT ON SUBJECT OF NARCOTICS, GON HAD BANNED TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTICS AND AS HE HAD INFORMED ME SHORTLY AFTER TAKING OFFICE (KATHMANDU 4100) HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAD EVERY INTENTION OF ENFORCING THIS BAN.

7. AS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION PM SAID HE DID NOT SEE THIS AS A PROBLEM BETWEEN NEPAL AND THE US. SHORTLY AFTER PM HAD TAKEN OFFICE KING HAD PARDONED AND/OR RELEASED NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND AS RESULT THERE WERE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN JAIL OTHER THAN THOSE WHO WERE UNDER TRIAL. WE SAID WE WERE

PLEASED TO HAVE THE PM'S CLARIFICATION ON THIS POINT.

8. RETURNING TO QUESTION OF WATER RESOURCES, DUBS SAID THAT DURING THIS VISIT TO KATHMANDU HE HAD BEEN STRUCK BY ATTENTION BEING ACCORDED QUESTION OF MOBILIZING WATER RESOURCES FOR BENEFIT OF NEPAL AND OF REGION. US HAD TAKEN NOTE OF KING'S INSTRUCTIVE AT RECENT COLOMBO PLAN MEETING TO CALL FOR CLOSER COOPERATION OF COUNTRIES OF REGION IN DEVELOPMENT OF WATER RESOURCES. FURTHER, PM DESAI'S VISIT TO NEPAL HAD HIGHLIGHTED NUMBER OF HYDROELECTRIC AND OTHER PROJECTS WHICH WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO BOTH INDIA AND NEPAL AND SUBJECT HAD APPARENTLY ALSO ARISEN DURING VISIT OF BANGLADESH PRESIDENT ZIA WHICH HAD CONCLUDED
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EARLIER IN DAY. PM AGREED SAYING THAT HE FELT THAT STAGE HAD NOW COME WHERE BOTH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL BENEFITS OF SUCH PROJECTS WERE INCREASINGLY APPARENT AND OBVIOUSLY IMPORTANT TO REGION. AS LONG AS IT WAS CLEAR EACH COUNTRY WOULD BENEFIT BY SUCH PROJECTS THERE WAS GOOD PROSPECT THAT REGIONAL EFFORT WOULD MATERIALIZE. PM WENT ON TO ASK FOR USG REACTION TO SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. DUBS STATED THAT USG WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME SUCH AN INITIATIVE BY STATES OF THE REGION AND ALTHOUGH OUR CURRENT AID GUIDELINES PRECLUDE PARTICIPATION IN MAJOR HYDROELECTRIC SCHEMES HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT IF ASKED USG WOULD CONSIDER HOW IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL BY EITHER BILATERALLY OR

THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER WAS FRIENDLY AND RELAXED AND SPOKE WITH CONVICTION WHEN COMMENTING ON SUCH TOPICS SUCH AS STATE OF US-NEPALESE RELATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, NARCOTICS; AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES IN REGION.
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